Amendments

Amendment to the Claims

This claims listing will replace all prior versions of claims and listings in the application.

Claims Listing

1. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising at least two synthetic oligonucleotides,

wherein a first oligonucleotide is covalently linked to a first binding partner and a second oligonucleotide is covalently linked to a second binding partner, the first and second binding partners being selected from the group consisting of cyclodextrin and adamantine, and streptavidin and biotin,

wherein each oligonucleotide comprises a region complementary to a tandem, non-overlapping region of a target nucleic acid, the tandem non-overlapping regions of the target nucleic acid being separated by 0 to 3 bases,

and wherein the target nucleic acid is a mRNA, a single-stranded viral RNA, or a single-stranded viral DNA.

2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotides are from 9 to 25 nucleotides in length.
3. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim1, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotides comprises a synthetic linkage other than a phosphodiester linkage between the 5' end of one nucleotide and the 3' end of another nucleotide.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Original) The composition of claim 3, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotides contains at least one phosphorothioate internucleoside linkage.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously Presented) A dimeric structure comprising a first synthetic oligonucleotide and a second synthetic oligonucleotide, each oligonucleotide comprising a region complementary to one of tandem, non-overlapping regions of a target nucleic acid, the

target nucleic acid being an mRNA, a single-stranded viral RNA, or a single-stranded viral DNA,

The first oligonucleotide having a first binding partner covalently attached to a 3' terminus,

The second oligonucleotide having a second binding partner covalently attached to a 5' terminus, and

Wherein the first and second binding partners are selected from the group consisting of cyclodextrin and adamantine, and biotin and streptavidin, and

Wherein the first and second binding partners are bound as a dimmer when the first and second oligonucleotides are hybridized to the target nucleic acid.

9. (Previously Presented) The dimeric structure of claim 8, wherein the first and second oligonucleotides are complementary to one of tandem regions of the target nucleic acid that are separated by 0 to 3 bases.

10. (Previously Presented) The dimeric structure of claim 8, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotides is modified.

11. (Original) The duplex structure of claim 10, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotides contains at least one non-phosphodiester internucleoside linkage.

12. (Original) The duplex structure of claim 10, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotides contains at least one phosphorothioate internucleoside linkage.

13. (Original) A ternary structure comprising the duplex structure of claim 8 and a target nucleic acid to which regions of the first and second cooperative oligonucleotides are complementary.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising of composition of claim1.

17. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising the structure of claim 8.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 3, comprising a synthetic linkage selected from the group consisting of alkylphosphonates, phosphorothioates,

phosphorodithioates, phosphate esters, alkylphosphonothioates, phosphoramidates, phosphoramidites, carbamates, carbonates, acetamidate, and carboxymethyl esters.